Effective Interviewing: Follow-up session for international students

International Student and Scholar Services
Today’s agenda

- Interview tips for international students
- Work authorization – what you need to know
- Examples
- Possible Strengths as an International Applicant
- Questions & Answers
Interview Tips for International Students

- **Be Punctual**: (arrive 10-15 minutes early)
- **Professional Appearance**: Dress to impress and use good personal hygiene.
- **Be Familiar with Cultural Expectation**:
  - Self-Disclosure (likes and dislikes)
  - Strengths & weaknesses
  - Personal Accomplishment
  - Be Confident
- **Communication Style**: be assertive & confident. Make eye contact & shake hands.
Interview Tips for International Students

- **Future Plans**: Prepare to talk about 5 year plan
- **Summarize Resume**: Don’t assume employers read your resume! - Communicate directly your strengths, experiences, career goals, and how they relate to the specific positions
- **Prepare Stories**: Have at least 5 stories you have practiced and are prepared to share
- **Do Homework**: Research organization and positions
- **Follow up**: Send thank you email after interview
Interview Tips for International Students

- Attend career services workshops (you already are! Great job!)
- Check the ISSS Career Services web-site at http://www.isss.umn.edu/career/
- Practice, practice, practice!
Work authorization: You must apply before you start working!

Be knowledgeable about your work authorization so you can explain it in interviews.

- F-1 students
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
    - Before degree completion date
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)
    - After degree completion date
    - 17-month extension of post-completion OPT is available for STEM degree holders

- J-1 students
  - Academic Training (AT)
    - Before and after degree completion date
Work Authorization: workshops

- Completion of online workshops (CPT/OPT) are required before submitting applications to ISSS!
  - z.umn.edu/cpt
  - z.umn.edu/opt
- Visa workshops are offered by ISSS every semester. Please check the ISSS Weekly Update for upcoming workshop schedule.
  - H-1B
  - Employment-Based Visas & Permanent Residency
  - http://z.umn.edu/ebvprsp15
How do you discuss your visa status in the interview?

- When you are asked the question: “Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?” , how would you respond?

- Examples:

- When is an appropriate time to bring up visa status?
Possible Strengths as an International Applicant

- International perspective/Cultural sensitivity
- Language
- Desire to work/Enthusiasm
- Diversity
- Adaptability
- Independence
- Problem solving
- Communication skills

Use examples to express your strengths and skills
Questions?

Yu Huang: huang951@umn.edu
Raven Herson Ortolan: herso003@umn.edu